

Universidad de Los Andes
Facultad de Humanidades y Educación
Escuela de Idiomas Modernos

ORDER OF MODIFIERS¹ BEFORE THE NOUN²

<i>Cardinal Numbers and Quantity Words</i>	<i>Of</i>	<i>Determiners</i>	<i>Ordinal Numbers</i>	<i>Cardinal Numbers and Quantity Words</i>	<i>Quality Words, Words of General Description</i>	<i>Size, Height, Length,</i>	<i>Age, Temperature</i>	<i>Shape</i>	<i>Color</i>	<i>Participles</i>	<i>Origin or Location</i>	<i>Material</i>	<i>Noun or Noun-Noun Compound</i>	<i>Predicate</i>
Several	of	the	first	two	good	big	old	square	red	neglected	Jamaican	stone	houses or plantation houses	fell down.

MODIFIERS THAT CAN FOLLOW THE NOUN

<i>Determiner</i>	<i>Noun</i>	<i>Adverb</i>
The	winter	there
		<i>Prepositional Phrases</i>
The	winter	in America
		<i>Adjectives Following Direct Objects or Object Complements</i>
(He wants) his	coffee	hot
		<i>Infinitives</i>
(I need) a	place	to sleep
		<i>Participials</i> ³
The	people	seen at the party / working in the streets
		<i>Relative Clauses</i>
The	people	that were seen at the party / who work in the streets

¹ All these modifiers don't have to occur at the same time.

² The information adapted from: Wishon, G. E., & Burks, J. M. (1968). *Let's write English, Book 1*. New York: American Book Company; pp. 54-55.

³ Participials refer to present participles and past participles together with their complements and modifiers. They are often considered short forms of relative clauses.

MODIFIERS THAT CAN FOLLOW THE VERB⁴

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Nonmodal Auxiliary Verb</i>	<i>Not</i>	<i>Adverb of Frequency (One- Word)</i>	<i>Main Verb</i>	<i>Infinitive or Gerund</i>	<i>Direct Object</i>	<i>Adverb⁵ of Place⁶</i>	<i>Adverb of Manner</i>	<i>Adverb of Time</i>	<i>Adverb of Frequency (Multi- Word)</i>
He	does	not	often	want	to do	his task	at home	quickly	at night	
I	have		always	wanted	to do	my work	home	quickly	at night	
She				comes			to class			every day
John				enjoys	eating	pizza.				
						<i>Noun Clause (D.O.)</i>				
We				know		who broke the window. where the man lives. when the man will leave. what the man wants.				
							<i>Relative Clause</i>			
Mary				knows		the man	who broke the window.			
							<i>Adverbial clause</i>			
They				saw		the man	when he broke the window.			
						the place	where he hid the money.			
				know		the day	when we will meet.			
<i>Subject</i>	<i>Modal Auxiliary Verb</i>	<i>Not</i>	<i>Adverb of Frequency (One- Word)</i>	<i>Main Verb (in infinitive without "to")</i>	<i>Infinitive or Gerund</i>	<i>Direct Object</i>	<i>Adverb of Place</i>	<i>Adverb of Manner</i>	<i>Adverb of Time</i>	<i>Adverb of Frequency (Multi- Word)</i>
He	could		scarcely	quit	eating	chocolates	there	happily	yesterday	
You	will	not		want	to eat	chocolates	there	grudgingly		every day

⁴ All these modifiers don't have to occur at the same time.

⁵ The adverbs can be single words or prepositional phrases.

⁶ Adverbs of place and time can usually exchange position in a sentence.